

A C-130 Hercules transport aircraft makes turns past a ridge of the Hindu Kush Mountains on its final approach to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.



As the war on terrorism continues to test America's resolve, Airmen in the fight have no time for the politics of war. Without the services provided by total force Airmen, the coalition effort in Iraq and Afghanistan would grind to a halt.

Nobody knows that better than Tech. Sgt. Jeff Yeargan. He and fellow 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Airmen keep a fleet of more than 1,200 vehicles running at Balad Air Base, Iraq. It's a vital job at the base, the Air Force hub for everything in the country.

Without the maintainers, the aerial port flight wouldn't be able to move tons of cargo. Fuel trucks couldn't pump fuel for the jets that provide close-air support to coalition ground forces. And the all-important airlift that keeps the war effort rolling would stop.

"Nothing moves unless we're doing our jobs," the sergeant said.

That's pretty much the way it is throughout the entire war zone.

Frontline *Duty*

Airmen continue warfighting effort

opening photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.

by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza



Firefighters enter a building during a controlled-burn exercise at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The Airmen, of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department and emergency services, practice often. It's how they stay ready to respond to aircraft and structural fires and medical emergencies.

by Staff Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



After a mission from Camp Victory, Iraq, Senior Airman Matthew Masciorini removes a machine gun from the turret of a Humvee. The Airman is with Detachment 7, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, which is helping train Iraqi police.

At a "Bladder Farm," Tech. Sgt. Adam Giles closes a block valve to a 50,000-gallon JP-8 fuel bladder at Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq. Sergeant Giles is a fuels supervisor with the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. The facility stores enough fuel for Air Force and Army operations at the base and five surrounding forward operating bases.



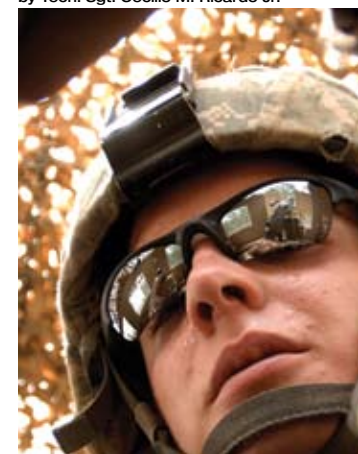
by Senior Airman Bradley A. Lail

by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.



Frontline Daily

by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.



An Afghan girl holds on to an Airman carrying her at a refugee camp at Dar Ul Aman, Afghanistan. The Airman is in a volunteer community outreach program that helps at the camp. The Airmen routinely donate clothes, shoes and other items to more than 1,000 refugees at the camp.

From his Humvee, Senior Airman Ian Ramirez and his security forces team escort a vehicle convoy in Baghdad, Iraq. The Airman is with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon receives a panel check by Staff Sgt. Justin Johnson as part of an inspection at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Johnson, on his fifth deployment, is on a phase inspection team with the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron.

Frontline Duty

by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.



A C-17 Globemaster III maintainer checks an engine on his transport aircraft before it takes off from a base in Southwest Asia for another mission in support of operations in Iraq. The cargo plane flies both strategic — overseas — and intra-theater heavy airlift missions.

C-130 Hercules mechanics do a post-flight check on their turboprop transport after the aircraft flew a leaflet airdrop mission over Afghanistan. The Airmen and aircraft are with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at a base in Southwest Asia.

by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.

